

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of time slicing a telecommunications call, comprising:
2 connecting a caller to a subscriber of a time slicing service;
3 determining if the subscriber is available to receive a call from the caller;
4 connecting the caller to an alternate device that provides alternate services
5 when the subscriber is not available to receive the call;
6 terminating the alternate services and resuming communication between
7 the caller to the subscriber when the subscriber is available to receive the call; and
8 determining a portion of total call charges associated with the call that is
9 attributable to at least one entity other than the subscriber based on the alternate services
10 provided.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting a caller comprises:
2 connecting the caller to an automatic call distributor associated with the
3 subscriber.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting a caller comprises:
2 connecting the caller to the subscriber through a telecommunications
3 system having an ATM backbone.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting a caller comprises:
2 determining if the subscriber is associated with time slicing services; and
3 determining at least one of an alternate device that provides alternate
4 services, a key sequence that indicates the subscriber is available to receive a call,
5 whether alternate services in progress should be completed or interrupted when
6 reconnecting a caller to the subscriber, and whether alternate services should be provided
7 at any point after the subscriber receives the call.
- 1 5. A method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting a caller comprises:
2 routing the call through a device capable of detecting if the subscriber is
3 available to receive the call.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the subscriber is
2 available comprises:
3 detecting voice activity between the caller and the subscriber.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the subscriber is
2 available comprises:

3 receiving a signal from the subscriber indicating that the subscriber is not
4 available to receive the call.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting the caller to an
2 alternate device comprises:

3 maintaining the connection between the caller and the subscriber as active;
4 and
5 connecting the caller to an IP that provides the alternate services.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting the caller to an
2 alternate device comprises:

3 connecting the caller to a device that provides advertising information to
4 the caller.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of terminating the alternate
2 services comprises:

3 receiving a signal from the subscriber representing that the subscriber is
4 available to receive the call.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of terminating the alternate
2 services comprises:

3 receiving a signal representing that the subscriber is available to receive
4 the call; and

5 interrupting the alternate services to reconnect the caller and the
6 subscriber.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of terminating alternate services
2 comprises:

3 waiting until the alternate services are complete before reconnecting the
4 caller and the subscriber.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a portion of total
2 call charges comprises:

3 allocating charges to an entity that owns advertising information that is
4 provided to the caller during the call.

14. A method of time slicing a telecommunications call, comprising:
connecting a caller to a called party;
determining that one of the caller and the called party is not available for
communication with the other of the caller and the called party;
connecting the other of the caller and the called party to a device that
provides alternate services while the caller or called party is not available;
terminating the alternate services and resuming communication between
the caller and the called party when both the caller and the called party are available for
communication; and
determining a portion of total call charges that are attributable to at least
one of the caller, the called party and another entity based on the alternate services
provided.

15. A telecommunications system having a time slicing capability,
comprising:
connecting means for connecting a caller to a called party;
availability determining means for determining that one of the caller and
the called party is not available for communication with the other of the caller and the
called party;
alternate services means for providing alternate services to the caller when
the caller or called party is not available;
terminating means for terminating the alternate services and resuming
communication between the caller and the called party when both the caller and the called
party are available for communication; and
charge determining means for determining a portion of total call charges
that are attributable to at least one of the caller, the called party and another entity based
on the alternate services provided.

16. A telecommunications system having a time slicing capability,
comprising:
an originating switch that receives a signal from a caller indicating a desire
to be connected with a called party;

5 a controller that provides information regarding how the signal from the
6 caller should be handled;

7 a destination switch that connects to the called party based on information
8 from the controller;

9 a switching network that interconnects the originating switch with the
10 destination switch;

11 a sensing device that detects that one of the caller and the called party is
12 not available for communication; and

13 an alternate services device that provides alternate services to the other of
14 the caller and the called party while the caller or called party is unavailable;

15 wherein portions of the call during which alternate services are provided
16 are charged to entities based on the alternate services provided.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the switching network is an ATM
2 backbone having a multipoint-to-multipoint connection capability.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the sensing device is an IP device that
2 detects a lack of communication between the caller and the called party.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the alternate services device is an IP that
2 provides advertising information to the caller while the called party is unavailable.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein portions of the call during which
2 advertising information is provided to the caller is charged to an advertiser associated
3 with the advertising information.

1 21. The system of claim 16, wherein the sensing device comprises an SCP that
2 does not keep track of called party resources.